

in said basic unit housing for accommodating a plurality of recording media; feeding means provided in said basic unit housing for feeding said plurality of recording media between said basic unit accommodation means and said recording and playback means; and basic unit guide means provided in said basic unit housing for guiding a movement of said feeding means; and

each of said expansion units includes an expansion unit housing; expansion unit accommodation means provided in said expansion unit housing for accommodating said plurality of recording media and expansion unit guide means provided in said expansion unit housing for guiding said movement of said feeding means between said expansion unit accommodation means and said recording and playback means.

--2. (Amended) The tape library according to claim 1, wherein said basic unit accommodation means and said expansion unit accommodation means include a rotatable member mounted for rotation around an axis substantially parallel to a coupling direction of said basic unit and said expansion unit, and a plurality of accommodation sections disposed on an outer periphery of said rotatable member for accommodating said plurality of recording media.

--3. (Amended) The tape library according to claim 2, wherein each of said plurality of accommodation sections are disposed in a plurality of stages in an axial direction of

said axis.

Q² --4. (Amended) The tape library according to claim 2, wherein said feeding means includes a movable table mounted for movement along said basic unit guide means and said expansion unit guide means in an axial direction of said axis; a translate table mounted for movement with respect to one of said plurality of accommodation sections and said recording and playback means on said movable table; and clamp means mounted on said translate table for releasably clamping one of said plurality of recording media.

--5. (Amended) The tape library according to claim 4, wherein said basic unit guide means and said expansion unit guide means are coupled such that said coupled basic unit guide means and expansion unit guide means extend a length corresponding to a length of said basic unit and said expansion unit when coupled to each other.

--6. (Amended) The tape library according to claim 5, wherein said basic unit includes at least one additional recording and playback means, and said feeding means includes a slide table for moving said translate table to a position opposing said recording and playback means and said additional playback and recording means.

--7. (Amended) The tape library according to claim 6,

wherein said plurality of accommodation sections further includes a fence provided on an outer side of said plurality of accommodation sections for preventing a removal of said plurality of recording media from said plurality of accommodation sections.

A² --8. (Amended) The tape library according to claim 7, wherein said expansion unit includes said recording and playback means for one of recording data to one of said plurality of recording media and playing data from one of said plurality of recording media.

--9. (Amended) A basic unit, comprising:

a housing;

recording and playback means provided in said housing for one of recording data to a recording medium and playing data from said recording medium;

accommodation means provided in said housing for accommodating said recording medium;

feeding means provided in said housing for feeding said recording medium between said accommodation means and said recording and playback means; and

guide means provided in said housing for guiding a movement of said feeding means, wherein

said accommodation means includes a rotatable member mounted for rotation around an axis, and a plurality of accommodation sections disposed on an outer periphery of said

rotatable member for accommodating said recording medium; and

said housing has an opening in an opposing relationship to at least one of said plurality of accommodation sections for allowing said recording medium to be one of inserted into and taken out from said one of said plurality of accommodation sections.

Q² --10. (Amended) The basic unit according to claim 9, further comprising: a control circuit section connected to said accommodation means, said recording and playback means, and said feeding means for controlling said accommodation means, said recording and playback means, and said feeding means, wherein at least one expansion unit is connected to said basic unit; when said feeding means is positioned within said basic unit said control circuit section controls a position and an operation of said feeding means with reference to a position reference point provided in said basic unit; and when said feeding means is within said expansion unit said control circuit section controls said position and said operation of said feeding means with reference to a position reference point provided in said expansion unit.

--11. (Amended) The basic unit according to claim 10, wherein when a power supply to said basic unit is available after at least one expansion unit is coupled to said basic unit said control circuit section performs an initialization process of detecting and storing said position reference point

of said basic unit and said position reference point of said expansion unit.

a² --12. (Amended) The basic unit according to claim 11, wherein said control circuit section communicates with a control circuit of said at least one expansion unit coupled to said basic unit to determine a number of said expansion units coupled to said basic unit and stores said determined number prior to said detection of said position reference point of said basic unit and said position reference point of said expansion unit in said initialization process.

--13. (Amended) The basic unit according to claim 10, further comprising a flat cable for interconnecting said control circuit section and said feeding means of said basic unit, wherein said flat cable includes a plurality of conductors extending in parallel and joined with an insulating material to form an elongated belt; said flat cable is folded at a substantially central portion in a longitudinal direction of said flat cable; and said flat cable is held at a portion in proximity to said folded portion by a fold-holding member such that an angle of opposite end portions of said flat cable with respect to said folded portion is variable corresponding to a distance between said control circuit section and said feeding means of said basic unit.

--14. (Amended) The basic unit according to claim 13,

wherein said fold-holding member is formed by molding a synthetic resin material, and a portion of said fold-holding member pressed by said flat cable when said opposite end portions of said flat cable are opened has a cylindrical shape around an axis parallel to a principal plane of said flat cable and perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said flat cable.

a² --15. (Amended) The basic unit according to claim 13, wherein said fold-holding member is formed from a flexible material.

--16. (Amended) An expansion unit coupled to a basic unit, said expansion unit comprising:

a housing for accommodating recording and playback means for one of recording data to a recording medium and playing data from said recording medium and accommodation means for accommodating said recording medium, wherein

at least one of said recording and playback means and said accommodation means is accommodated in said housing;

a control circuit section connected to said recording and playback means and said accommodation means for controlling said recording and playback means and said accommodation means; and

guide means for guiding a movement of feeding means for feeding said recording medium between said expansion unit and said basic unit when said expansion unit is coupled to said